

opportunity to handle it again. We have been criticized. The nonfarm committees for the Congress, for example, who are involved with EPA and the Food and Drug Administration, those agencies are going to take an increasingly greater interest and look more closely at what happens in the food industry and, therefore, it might be better, it just might be better, I am not saying it will be better, but it ought to be worth a look. And I didn't agree with Senator Dierks at first, and I am not sure I agree with him now, but I am saying, let's look at it. Is that so unreasonable? If, after it goes to Select File and we all sit down and discuss it again, we decide that this is not the way we want to go at this time, then we can kill the bill, but to summarily kill the bill today I believe, ladies and gentlemen, we are following in the path we have followed before, and some of the times I have led you down that path and lived to regret it. I would hope that we would be able to discuss this in a more calm and less emotional manner. I know what it is like. I have gotten the same calls that all of you had, that we have been accused of foot dragging in the area of animal health.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: We know what happened to the cranberry industry with a little bit of a scare relative to cancer. Can you imagine what happens if someone decides to write a story about the various additives in feed relative to the production of livestock? We know what is in there. We are assured it has been safe, but we need to be absolutely positive. We are going to see some major changes in the inspection of the fish industry, and I am all in favor of that. At the present time, we inspect every single chicken, every single swine, every single beef, but we don't touch the poultry if they come from a certain part...or the fish if they come from a certain part of the ocean. We are going to have to watch that, but the food industry is too important to the State of Nebraska to say that those of us who are the production end of it can guarantee its wholesomeness without having a second look. I have a high regard for the past system, a high regard for the Department of Agriculture, and I know they are interested, but I am going to ask you about the credibility that you and I have when we tell the consumer, yes, that food is safe for you, because if they don't believe it and if there is ever one single violation, ever one single problem, then the entire industry is suspect. So let's discuss it a little bit more. Let us not fail to advance the bill. Let's sit down with Senator Dierks and others who are